Indo-Russian Joint Venture for Manufacture of Fighter Jets

†* 137. SHRIMATI SAVTTA SHARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement, to set up a joint venture for manufacturing high quality fighter jets, has been signed between Indian and Russian Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the agreement will come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERN ANDES): (a) No. Sir.

(b) & (c) Question does not arise.

Custodial Deaths

* 138. DR ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has recorded 1305 reports of custodial deaths between April, 2001 and March, 2002;

(b) if so, whether there has been an increase in case of deaths in both judicial and police custody compared to the previous year;

(c) if so, the State where higher custodial deaths have taken place; and

(d) what are the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI CHENNAMANENIVIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. TheNational Human Rights Commission (NHRC) had received intimation of 165 cases of deaths in police custody and 1140 deaths injudicial custody from the State/UT Governments during the period April, 2001 to March, 2002.

(b) and (c) There has been increase in deaths in police custody and judicial custody during the year 2001 -2002 in comparison to the year 2000-2001. In the year 2000-2001 number of deaths in police custody reported was 127 and injudicial custody 910. In 2001-2002, the highest number of deaths injudicial custody had taken place in Uttar Pradesh and the highest number of deaths in police custody had taken place in the State of Maharashtra.

(d) The NHRC has time and again directed the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to curb the occurrence of custodial deaths.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.